

Drug Policy Board Meeting Minutes from October 19, 2017

Present:

Johnny Anderson, Mike Barron, Alfreda Tillman Bester, Quanda Charles, Catherine Childers, Michael Comeaux, Alberto DePuy, Dr. Leslie Freeman, Dr. Chaunda Allen Mitchell, Dr. Janice Petersen, Dr. Ken Roy, Charles Schilling, and Dr. Raman Singh.

Call to Order and Introductions

Dr. Chaunda Allen Mitchell, Director of Drug Policy, called the meeting to order at 10:08 am. Everyone present was asked to introduce themselves.

Old Business

Review and Approval of Minutes

Minutes could not be approved due to lack of quorum at the beginning of the meeting.

New Business

Louisiana Substance Abuse Prevention Strategic Plan

Quanda Charles provided an overview of the Strategic Plan and the Strategic Plan Brief. Charles discussed changes to the Plan as well as the rationale for the Brief to serve as a summary document and compliment the Strategic Plan. Members provided feedback and edits to the Strategic Plan Brief including technical edits and the need to highlight specific drugs related to trends. After a lengthy discussion, Michael Comeaux made a motion to approve the Brief with edits. Dr. Ken Roy provided a second to the motion. The motion was approved unanimously. (quorum as achieved by the time the vote was taken)

Heroin and Opioid Prevention and Education (HOPE) Advisory Council

Last Legislative Session, Act 88 created the HOPE Advisory Council. The first meeting of the Council will be on Nov. 6th. The Advisory Council on HOPE is furthering the work of the Opioid Task Force with specific action items as outlined in the legislation.

Nominating Subcommittee

The Office of Drug Policy will work to reconvene the Nominating Subcommittee as more appointees are named to the Drug Policy Board so that a slate of officers can be presented for a vote by the Board.

2018 Legislative Session

The 2018 Legislative Session will begin in March. The Prevention Systems Committee and State Epidemiology Workgroup will be a 2018 Legislative Wish List to determine what ideas the committees and agencies have to improve drug policy in Louisiana.

Agency Updates

Dr. Janice Petersen with the Louisiana Department of Health Office of Behavioral Health reported that the Advisory Council on Heroin and Opioid Prevention and Education (HOPE) would be having their next meeting on Nov. 6th.

During agency updates, Alberto DePuy inquired about the status of the DWI Task Force. Dr. Chaunda Mitchell stated that the Executive Order forming the Task Force is awaiting the approval of Governor Edwards. The new Executive Order places the DWI Task Force under the Office of Drug Policy.

Dr. Raman Singh with the Department of Corrections (DOC) stated that there is work being done to implement the laws passed by the recommendations of the Justice Reinvestment Task Force. With the support of the Office of Behavioral Health there will be Opioid Treatment Programs at the Bossier Correctional Center, Jetson Correctional Center for Women including trauma informed care, and the reentry center at Angola. A new electronic health record will be coming on-line early next year. Also, DOC is working to expand automatic enrollment of Medicaid Expansion to include parish prisons as well as DOC prisons in the state.

Dr. Petersen discussed the Naloxone Distribution Steering Committee which is made up of a small group of agency representatives to encourage knowledge sharing and ensure coordinated efforts around the distribution of naloxone to first responders. Working with the Office of Public Health to hopefully provide a data sheet that will outline where naloxone is being dispensed.

Dr. Leslie Freeman with the Louisiana Department of Health Office of Behavioral Health provided information on Red Ribbon Week and National Drug Prescription Take Back Day. The Governor's Mansion will be illuminated red for two days in honor of Red Ribbon Week. In addition, First Lady Donna Edwards will speak at Dufroq Elementary's Red Ribbon Week Program.

Office of Drug Policy Updates

Dr. Mitchell provided information from the National Alliance of Model State Drug Laws Advisory Group. The group consists of directors of drug policy around the nation. The group provided feedback on the draft recommendations from the White House Opioid Commission on ways to tackle the national epidemic. The calendar for the 2018 Drug Policy Board Meeting dates was provided. Dr. Mitchell announced that Quanda Charles, LaPFS Project Director in the Office of Drug Policy, would be leaving her position to pursue other professional opportunities. Her last day will be Wednesday, October 25, 2017.

Future Drug Policy Board Meeting:

Thursday, January 18, 2018

Meeting was adjourned at 11:46 am